



Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested having regard to the above amendments and the following comments. Claims 1 to 5 remain in the application.

A separate sheet showing amendments made to the claims and the disclosure pages set forth above are attached hereto in the attachment entitled "Version with markings to show changes made".

Specification

The specification has been amended at several pages, as noted above, to correct the spelling defect in the term " β_2 -microglobulin". The term has been spelled out at the first occurrence and has been abbreviated to read --(β_2 M)-- for the remainder of the specification.

Claim Rejections

Informalities

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to more precisely formulate the subject matter of the claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1, 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 on the grounds that they are not enabling for preventing an HLA alloimmune response. In response, applicant has amended the claims to specify that the method is for inhibiting an HLA alloimmune

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response. As stated by the Examiner, the specification is enabling for a method for inhibiting an HLA alloimmune response. It is believed that this amendment overcomes the objection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crow et al. in view of Damjanovich et al. and Shalit et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection for the following reasons. It is submitted that the Crow et al. reference which is a publication co-authored by the inventors, was published within one year of the priority date of the present application. More specifically, the reference was published in the March 1999 Issue of the British Journal of Hematology while the application has a priority date of November 12, 1999. It is therefore submitted that the Crow et al reference is not citable against the present application and it is respectfully requested that the objection be removed.

Respectfully submitted,
LAZARUS, et al.



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